

CATHERINE E. PUGH
40th Legislative District
Baltimore City

DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER

Finance Committee

Chair
Health Subcommittee

Executive Nominations Committee

Chair
Special Committee on Substance Abuse

Joint Audit Committee



The Senate of Maryland
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August 22, 2014

Chairman Tom Wheeler
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel
Commissioner Ajit Pai
Commissioner Michael O'Rielly
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC 20554

RE: MB Docket No. 14-57

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

Our African American community has always been resilient. We have always been self-advocates, self-starters, and believers and achievers in the American Dream. Yet as recent events such as those currently unfolding in Ferguson show, our community needs strong leaders and partners for continued positive growth and achievement. Comcast has been just such a nationwide leader through its dedication to our country's most underserved communities and through its commitment to inclusive hiring.

I write today as the President-Elect of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL) and as State Senator for Maryland's 40th district. I write to urge your approval of the Time Warner Cable and Comcast transaction that sits before you today, because the combined entity ought to be able to continue and expand Comcast's remarkable record of service to the African American community and all Americans.

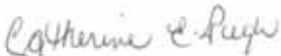
Our body of over 600 legislators at the NBCSL serves as a national network for collaboration and exchange of ideas and solutions among African American state legislators, thought leaders, and private partners. We are blessed to represent a diverse array of strong communities. Far too often, however, we are aware of a digital divide between our richest and poorest communities. Far too often, African Americans live in our nation's poorest, most resource-deprived communities.

Comcast's Internet Essentials program is currently making enormous strides towards closing this gap and connecting our most underserved neighborhoods to the Web. Families whose kids are eligible for free-or reduced-price lunches can enroll if they live in Comcast-served areas. They are then connected to a wide variety of empowering services. Comcast provides Internet for the affordable rate of \$9.95 per month. They go further one more step, by giving subscribers discounted hardware. The company completes the rounded program by building community partnerships to support the program. Free training programs help residents profit from their connection. Digital Connectors gives young people the tools to change their communities for the better with the power of technology. This model public-private partnership has already brought service to over 350,000 homes. Many other cities could be included following the approval of this transaction, including our nation's largest two cities, Los Angeles and New York.

Comcast's inclusive hiring programs are creating a new class of African American business and public leaders. Forty percent of company employees are people of color. Twenty-five percent of the company's managers are people of color. And that proportion continues to expand. Comcast has increased the number of vice presidents and other high-level executives of color by more than 30 percent since they combined with NBCUniversal. The company works with a coalition of national leaders on their large Joint Diversity Council to make this progress. This is yet another example of Comcast's all-encompassing commitments. The company makes sensitive, informed connections with community leaders to deliver the best service to all communities.

Please approve this transaction to help continue the forward progress of this industry leader's commitments to all American communities.

Sincerely,



Senator Catherine E. Pugh
President-Elect
National Black Caucus of State Legislators